

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

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Spring Thanksgiving Festival

Spring is a joyful time when life bursts forth from the earth and the chains of winter are broken.

We are reborn as we emerge from winter, ready to partake of all the bounties of the earth.

As we celebrate, we remember that Spring is not only a season; it is a state of mind.

In many cultures, Spring Festivals are traditional blessing of the land and prayers for bountiful crops.

The shrine's annual Spring Thanksgiving Festival was conducted on Sunday, April 12 by **Rev Masa Takizawa**, assisted by **Rev Kimito-mo Idemitsu** of Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka.

In keeping with ancient tradition, rice plants and *morijio* by **Allan Takeshita** were offered to secure the blessings of the kami.

Rev. Tsuyoshi Nishihara also of Dazaifu Tenmangu presented offerings from the main shrine during the solemn ceremony.

Dance Master **Hanayagi Mitsuju-ro** made an offering of *Asahimai*, a rare performance of a ceremonial priest dance.

In closing, **Dr Shinken Naitoh** and **Rev. Tsuyoshi Nishihara** offered their greetings to all attending the

Spring Festival.

In the main hall, the 2015 Scholarship awards were presented, as we continue to highlight motivated individuals in the pursuit of knowledge.

Mahalo Nui to Principal **Hanayagi Mitsuai** sensei, and students of **Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation** for their performances, to **Bob Harada**, **Diane Nishida** and **Tom Jannuzzio** for MCing, and to the officers and volunteers for their kokua in making this a meaningful event for all.

View Event photos at: www.flickr.com/kotohira-dazaifu

View Event videos at: www.youtube.com

MAHALO for your generous donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa
Anekurahime Jinja
Mary Carias
Daijingu Temple of Hawaii
Dazaifu Tenmangu
Doughty Ohana
Anthony Fujii Ohana
Nicholas Fujii
Brent Furuya
Yasumi Gojo
Miyoko Hanahara
Hanayagi Dancing Academy
Hawaii Foundation
Bob Harada
Hawaii Ishizuchi Jinja
Noboru Hayase
Mitsuru & Pam Igarashi
Florence Imai
Arthur K. Isa

Arthur MJY Isa
Kyoko Isa
Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii
Tom Jannuzzuo
Loraine & Elsie Kadota
Hidetaka & Risa Kojima
Elaine Komatsu
James & Melba Kurashige
Kerry & Yuka Matsumoto
Takeyuki & Hanae Miyamoto
Roy Morioka
Koji Mukaeyama
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Masateru & Hatsuko Nakazato
Craig & Diane Nishida
Diane Oasawara
Akiko Sanai
Danielle Sato
Senbukan Karate



Mahalo to Mitsuru & Pam Igarashi and Takenoko Sushi of Hilo for the donation of Koshihikari rice.

Alice Sugimoto
Sugimoto Ohana
Yuko Takahashi
Takenoko Sushi
Allan Takeshita
Naomi Teramoto
Jensen & Judy Toma

Sharon Toma
Kyoko Uchiyama

2015 Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu Scholarship Awards

A Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu scholarship was established in 2012 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu and to highlight motivated individuals in the pursuit of knowledge.

Congratulations to the four recipients for 2015:

- **Milena Naitoh** - Presently a Master's student and fellow at Harvard University
- **Alexandria Carlyle** - Presently attending Oregon State University
- **Dane Yamada** - Presently attending Kapiolani Community College
- **John Sunahara** - Presently attending Leeward Community College



From left to right: Rev Kimitomo Idemitsu, Rev. Tsuyoshi Nishihara, John Sunahara, Cassandra Carlyle accepting on behalf of Alexandria Carlyle, Dane Yamada, Marilyn Naitoh accepting on behalf of Milena Naitoh, Dr. Shinken Naitoh

Shrine Visitors

Dr. Manako Ogawa of Ritsumeikan University of Kyoto, visited the shrine on March 13.

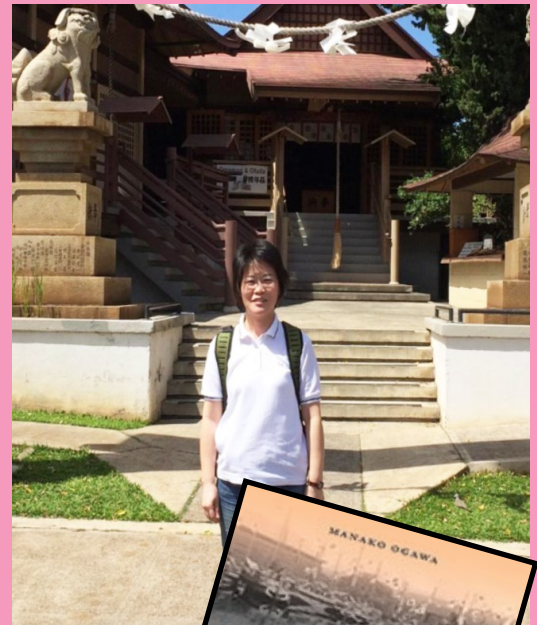
Dr. Ogawa recently published a book entitled *Sea of Opportunity* about Japanese pioneers of the fishing industry in Hawaii.

When Japanese fishermen arrived in Hawaii from Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, and Wakayama, they brought traditional Japanese fishing techniques and adapted them to Hawaiian waters. Within a short period of time, they expanded the fishing industry into one of the pillars of our local economy.

The Japanese fishermen provided a larger variety and quantity of fish to meet the needs of the ever growing immigrant population. By 1930, the fishing industry in Hawaii was yielding over \$2 million annually with over 1000 Japanese immigrants engaged in all aspects of the industry.

Around this time, Italian fishermen were brought in by the U.S. Government from the mainland to curb the activities of the Japanese fishermen. They did not stay long in the islands. Since, fishing remained a monopoly by the Japanese immigrants until World War II.

The shrine, as the guardian kami of the Issei fishermen is mentioned in the book.



Anekurahime Jinja

Chief Priest Nariyuki Wakamiya and members of the *Anekurahime Jinja* of Toyama-ken visited the shrine on March 17.

Anekurahime Jinja was established in Kureha, Toyama in 737. *Anekurahime* is the goddess of weaving and is said to have first introduced looms and a special weaving technique of hemp to *Etchu*, present day Toyama prefecture.



Fukuoka Convention Bureau

Toshiki Tanaka, Chief of the Fukuoka Convention Bureau Events Department visited the shrine on March 17. The shrine will be assisting Fukuoka Convention Bureau and the Fukuoka Lions at the International Convention in Honolulu this June.



Congratulations

Congratulations to **Kerry and Yuka Matsumoto**. Wishing you a life together filled with love, laughter and happiness from this moment throughout eternity!



Taisai Preparations

MAHALO

Bryson Goda
Bob Harada
Arthur K. Isa
Marilyn Naitoh
Shinken Naitoh
Allan Takeshita



Asahi Mai

Asahimai is a dance performed at shrines as an offering to the kami and is also one of the dances designated as a *Saishimai* ceremonial dance by Jinja Honcho (Association of Shinto Shrines).

Asahimai lyrics are actually two poems composed by Emperor Meiji and put to music by Wataro Togi in 1950. The choreography is very masculine and is usually performed by Guji Chief priests.

Dance Master **Hanayagi Mitsujyuro** performed *Asahimai* at the recent Spring Thanksgiving Festival.



Upcoming Events

Visit www.e-shrine.org

Tsukinami-sai

月次祭

May 3, 2015
3:00 pm



Chinowa for People and Pets



June 7 9 am - 2 pm